ABSTRACT

An image process comprising inputting image data, performing block selection of objects in the input image data, discriminating whether each block of the input image data is character or non-character image data, detecting a feature of each block of the character data without utilizing edge portions of the character data, performing an image process on each block of the character data based on the detected feature of the character data, and performing an image process on the non-character image data, and outputting the processed image data. The detected feature of the character data may be a foreground or background color of the character data. The block selection detects edge portions of the character data and utilizes portions of the character data internal to the edge portions in detecting the feature of the character data. The foreground color detection process may comprise converting input color component values of the character data to color space values, determining an average color space value from the converted color space values, comparing the average color space value to a threshold value, and determining whether or not the character data is black based on the comparison result. Additionally, the input step may comprise selecting a processing mode of the image data based on a type of image being input, wherein each block of the input image data is discriminated based on the selected processing mode. The processing mode may include one of a text mode, a photo/illustration mode, a magazine mode and a mixed document mode.

CA_MAIN 14103 v 2